

Message Text

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22

ACTION EUR-12

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AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

CINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST

USNMR SHAPE

CINCUSNAVEUR

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TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, TU, GR

SUBJECT: POLITICAL AND PRESS REACTION TO SAILING OF SISMIK

REF: ANKARA 5677 (DTG 231405Z JUL 76)

1. PRIMIN DEMIREL AND RPP CHAIRMAN ECEVIT CONTINUED TO
EXCHANGE CRITICAL COMMENTS ABOUT GOT AEGEAN ACTIVITIES

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JULY 23. ECEVIT HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE AT WHICH HE

REITERATED HIS POSITION (REFTEL) THAT TURKEY'S INTERESTS IN THE AEGEAN HAD BEEN LONG IGNORED BY THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT AND THE SAILING OF THE SISMİK (EX-HORA) CONSTITUTES AN INSUFFICIENT REMEDY FOR THIS NEGLECT.

2. DEMIREL, QUESTIONED BY REPORTERS ABOUT ECEVIT'S COMMENTS OF PREVIOUS DAY, ACCUSED ECEVIT OF DEMAGOGUERY IN SUGGESTING GOT TREATING SISMİK AS A FISHING BOAT. DEMIREL SAID, "THE SISMİK IS NOT A FISHING BOAT. DOES IT LOOK LIKE A FISHING BOAT? IT WILL DO RESEARCH. WILL IT CATCH FISH? THIS ATTEMPT TO BELITTLE WHAT WE ARE DOING BY SAYING THAT A RESEARCH SHIP RESEMBLES A FISHING BOAT IS NOTHING MORE THAN JEALOUSY THAT WE ARE DOING SOMETHING THEY COULDN'T DO". DEMIREL RHETORICALLY ASKED IF IT WERE POSSIBLE TO BELITTLE THE FACT THAT THE SISMİK WILL DO SEISMIC RESEARCH IN THE AEGEAN. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT TURKEY DOES NOT LIVE IN ISOLATION AND CANNOT SOLVE INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS BY UNILATERAL ACTION. HE SAID NEGOTIATIONS ARE NECESSARY AND NEGOTIATIONS ARE CONTINUING BETWEEN TURKEY AND GREECE ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE. HE AGAIN ASKED REPORTERS WHAT ECEVIT WANTED. "IF HE WANTS RESEARCH DONE IN THE AEGEAN, WE ARE DOING IT. IF HE WANTS A SOLUTION TO THE CONTINENTAL SHLF PROBLEM, DISCUSSIONS ARE CONTINUING." HE CONCLUDED HIS COMMENTS BY SAYING THAT TURKEY HAS RIGHTS IN THE AEGEAN AND THEY WILL NOT BE ABANDONED. HOWEVER, HE SAID THE GOT IS ATTEMPTING TO FIND A POLITICAL SOLUTION AND THAT IT WILL UTILIZE EVERY POSSIBILITY TO SEEK A PEACEFUL RESULT.

3. EXACT WHEREABOUTS OF SISMİK HAVE NOT BEEN MADE PUBLIC. TURKISH TELEVISION EVENING OF JULY 23 REPORTED THAT IT MIGHT ENTER THE AEGEAN AS EARLY AS JULY 24. IT WAS ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE SISMİK MIGHT CONTINUE ITS OPERATIONS FOR UP TO TWO MONTHS.

4. TURKISH NEWSPAPERS JULY 24 TREAT SAILING OF THE SISMİK AS MAJOR NEWS EVENT. SENSATIONALIST GUNAYDIN HAS OVER-SIZED FRONT PAGE WHICH IS DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO THE SUBJECT. HALF OF THAT PAGE CONSISTS OF A COLORED MAP UNCLASSIFIED

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OF THE AEGEAN PURPORTEDLY SHOWING TURKISH AND GREEK CONTINENTAL SHELVES. GUNAYDIN MAP APPEARS TO DEFINE CONTINENTAL SHELF OF BOTH COUNTRIES AS BEING LIMITED BY THE 200 METER CURVE. INTERESTINGLY, WHILE IT DENIES ANY CONTINENTAL SHELF TO THE GREEK ISLANDS WHICH ARE "RESTING ON" THE TURKISH CONTINENTAL SHELF, IT ASSIGNS A CONTINENTAL SHELF TO THE OTHER GREEK ISLANDS IN THE AEGEAN. THE MAP IS EMBLAZONED WITH A LARGE PURPLE ARROW COMING OUT

OF THE DARDANELLES POINTING TOWARDS A SIMILARLY
LARGE QUESTION MARK IN THE MIDDLE OF THE AEGEAN. OTHER
PRSS COVERAGE IS EXTENSIVE ALTHOUGH NOT NEARLY AS
SENSATIONAL AND POTENTIALLY PROVOCATIVE AS GUNAYDIN.
HURRIYET DEVOTES HALF OF ITS FRONT PAGE TO COLOR PICTURES
OF THE SISMİK. TERCUMAN, MILLIYET AND CUMHURİYET HAVE
ONLY SLIGHTLY LESS EXTENSIVE COVERAGE. SEVERAL PAPERS
SAID SISMİK WOULD ENTER AEGEAN JULY 24.
MACOMBER

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